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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 13, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 8 totaled an estimated 17.9 billion ton-miles, 2.2 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 32 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 557.1 billion ton-miles, 0.4 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 8 totaled 428,936 cars, 0.2 percent above 1980, but 1.8 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 7.2 percent in the East, and 0.1 percent in the South, but down 4.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 10,501 cars, or 9.0 percent, metallic ores were up 10,191 cars, or 36.0 percent, loadings of coke registered a 61.7 percent increase, and metals and products were up 15.1 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended August 1 totaled 32,451 cars, up 6.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 60,802 trailers and/or containers, up 9.4 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 31 weeks of the year was 1,002,312 cars, 0.9 percent higher than last year, and 1,809,346 trailers and/or containers, virtually no change from last year.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/8/81:

	Loadings in Week ended August 8, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,009	D	9,128	26.7	I	1,995	8.7
Other farm products	3,230	D	812	20.1	D	172	5.1
Metallic ores	38,497	I	10,191	36.0	I	901	2.4
Coal	127,728	I	10,501	9.0	D	1,051	0.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,626	D	2,092	14.2	D	716	5.4
Nonmetallic minerals	13,986	D	1,611	10.3	D	221	1.6
Grain mill products	13,251	D	3,325	20.1	D	892	6.3
Food and kindred products	14,545	D	3,247	18.2	D	924	6.0
Primary forest products	18,466	D	1,351	6.8	D	158	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,314	D	1,505	17.1	D	1,244	14.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	18,576	D	1,064	5.4	D	889	4.6
Chemicals and allied products	24,333	D	754	3.0	D	162	0.7
Petroleum products	5,180	D	89	1.7	I	255	5.2
Stone, clay and glass products	14,130	D	1,378	8.9	D	159	1.1
Coke	6,070	I	2,316	61.7	I	122	2.1
Metals and products	13,951	I	1,831	15.1	D	1,640	10.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,774	I	539	5.3	D	1,864	14.8
Waste and scrap materials	10,964	I	989	9.9	I	478	4.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,631	D	625	6.1	D	44	0.5
All other carloads	40,480	I	1,412	3.6	D	1,321	3.2
LCL traffic	195	D	12	5.8	I	1	0.5
Total Cars Loaded	428,936	I	786	0.2	D	7,705	1.8
Corresponding week of 1980	428,150						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (32 weeks)	13,284,496	13,884,089	D	4.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
31 Weeks cumulative	539.2	541.8	D	0.5
Week ended August 8	17.9	17.5	I	2.2
32 Weeks cumulative	557.1	559.4	D	0.4

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